

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph 0045 of the specification as follows:

A back-end of the RFID integrated circuit 106 includes the tag controller 118 and associated tag memory 120. In one exemplary embodiment, the tag controller 118 may conceptually be regarded as a “core” of the RFID circuit 106. The tag controller 118 includes a command decoder 122 to decode commands received within the received data, and to control a state occupied by a tag ~~state~~stage machine 124, responsive to the commands. Specifically, the tag controller 118 may output specific information, and perform certain actions, depending upon the state occupied by the tag state machine 124. As such, the transmission data outputted by the tag state machine may constitute a reply to a specific command included within the received data.